AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 5 with the following amended paragraph.

Generally, a flexible conduit 24 extends from the mechanism 10 on a downstream side 26 thereof such that the wire 18 will be advanced by the mechanism 10 through the conduit 24 to a welding gun 28 adjacent the workpiece 20. As the mechanism 10 axially advances the wire 18 along the pathway 12, the advancing wire is radially supported and guided by the flexible conduit 24 toward the workpiece [[18]] 20 until the wire [[16]] 18 reaches the gun 28 and is consumed during the welding process. As is known, the conduit 24 can optionally carry shielding gas and electrical current to the welding gun 28. Alternatively, the flexible conduit 24 can be replaced with a rigid conduit terminating at a welding head. In any arrangement, it is to be appreciated that both conduit and welding guns are commonly known and therefore need not be described in further detail herein.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 1 with the following amended paragraph.

On an upstream side of the driver rollers 36-42, the support guide 14 receives the wire 18 from the roll 22 and directs the wire 18 into a bite defined between the first set of drive rollers 36,38. On a downstream side of the drive rollers 36-42, the support guide 16 receives the wire 18 from the second set of drive rollers [[42,44]] 40,42 and directs the wire 18 into the conduit 24. A third support guide (not shown) can be provided between the sets of drive rollers 36,38 and 40,42 to guide the wire 18 from the first set of drive rollers 36,38 into the second set of drive rollers 40,42. The tubular support guides optionally include tapered interior surfaces to further facilitate guiding of the wire 18.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 7, line 22 with the following amended paragraph.

With additional reference to Figure 2, each of the drive rollers 36-42 (only drive rollers 36,38 shown in Figure 2) includes a hub 52 having an outer surface 54 extending

circumferentially about the corresponding drive roller axis and a plating or coating 56 on the outer surface 54 extending circumferential about the outer surface 54 and the corresponding drive roller axis. In the preferred embodiment, the plating or coating 56 is a chrome plating including a chrome alloy having between about 96% and about 97% chromium. Further, in the preferred embodiment, the chrome plating has a radial thickness of about 0.0004 ~~includes~~ inches to about 0.0006 inches and a hardness of about 70 to about 72 Rockwell C. Alternatively, the plating or coating 56 is a nickel coating having a radial thickness of about 0.0001 inches to about 0.0030 inches and a hardness of about 60 Rockwell C. As used herein, "plating" and "coating" are used interchangeably. Thus, plating can refer to chrome, nickel or other plating and, likewise, coating can refer to chrome, nickel or another coating. The plating or coating [[60]] 56 increases the useful life of each of the drive rollers 36-42 by increasing the wear resistance of the drive rollers and increasing the period of time in which the drive rollers can be used before the surfaces of the drive rollers degrade.

Please replace the paragraph beginning on page 8, line 19 with the following amended paragraph.

In one preferred embodiment, the drive rollers 36-42 include V-shaped grooves 58 defined by angled sidewalls 60,62. The grooves extend circumferentially about the drive rollers 36-42 and serve to reduce the deformation of the wire 18 caused by the compressive forces of the drive rollers 36-42. More particularly, the wire 18 is engaged by the sidewalls 60,62. As a result, the compressive forces exerted by each pair of drive rollers 36,38 and 40,42 act and deform the wire 18 at four contact locations. As a result of the four contact locations, the drive rollers 36-42 tend to deform the wire 18 to a lesser extent than those without V-shaped grooves. In Figure 2, the drive rollers 36-42 have a pair of V-shaped grooves 58. One of the V-shaped grooves 58 on each drive roller 36-42 can be used until its defining surfaces 60,62 have degraded to a sufficient extent. Then, the wire 18 can be moved to the second of the V-shaped grooves 58. Only after both V-shaped grooves are worn out might the drive roller need to be replaced or refurbished. The use of the coating or plating [[60]] 56 over the grooves 58 has the effect of eliminating or reducing the need to clean out or remove wire residue from the grooves 58, particularly when the wire 18 is aluminum. With reference to Figure 3, drive rollers 36',38' are shown in accordance with an alternate preferred

embodiment of the present invention. The drive rollers 36',38' include radial grooves 58' for receiving the wire 18. The radial grooves 58' are defined in an outer surface 54' of each of the drive rollers 36',38' and a coating or plating 56' is provided on the outer surface [[54]] 54'.